

SEND – The Four Broad Areas of Need

The term 'special educational needs' has a legal definition. Children with special educational needs all have learning difficulties or disabilities that make it harder for them to learn than most children of the same age.

The SEND Code of Practice states:

A child or young person has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her.

A child of compulsory school age or a young person has a learning difficulty or disability if he or she:

- has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age, or
- has a disability which prevents or hinders him or her from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools.

These children may need extra or different help from that given to other children of the same age. (This is called additional to and different from provision).

The law says that children do not have learning difficulties just because their first language is not English. Of course, some of these children may have learning difficulties as well.

The 4 broad areas of need are:

- Cognition and Learning (C&L)
- Social Emotional Mental Health (SEMH)
- Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN)
- Physical and/or Sensory (P&S)



Examples of some SEND needs and where they fall within the four broad areas of need are demonstrated below:

